NEWS

Winchester delegation, Mass. Legislature protect public transit workers from assault

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Members of the Winchester delegation joined their colleagues in the Massachusetts Legislature to strengthen protections for public transit workers by expanding laws governing assault and battery against on-duty personnel. COURTESY PHOTO

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis:

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State Reps. Michael Day and Michelle Ciccolo and Sen. Jason Lewis joined their colleagues in the Massachusetts Legislature to strengthen protections for public transit workers by expanding laws governing assault and battery against on-duty personnel.

“Our public transit system runs because of the dedication of workers who show up every day to serve us,” said Day “The Commonwealth affirms our continued commitment to protect those workers who are essential to the success of our everyday lives. I thank my colleagues in the Legislature and the Governor for their partnership in passing this measure into law, and I appreciate the advocacy of the Carmen’s Union who shared compelling and heartbreaking stories of assaults their members endured while simply doing their jobs.”

An act relative to assault and battery upon a transit worker advanced from the Joint Committee on the Judiciary under Day’s chairmanship. H.4645 ensures that all transit employees receive the same heightened legal protections as other public employees while performing their jobs, whether employed directly by public transit agencies or employed by private contractors such as commuter rail operators.

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“MBTA employees and other public transit staff are essential workers who keep us moving and safe when we are riding the subway, trains, and buses,” said Lewis. “Transit workers, like all other workers, should never fear being assaulted while doing their jobs, and this legislation will ensure that violent or abusive individuals are held accountable for their actions.”

“Our transit workers provide a critical service to our communities, economies, and everyday lives,” said Ciccolo. “No worker should experience violence while doing their jobs, but especially not pu

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employees. This legislation sends a strong signal that the Commonwealth stands behind public transit workers."

In 2024, MBTA workers reported 33 assaults with weapons, 72 physical assaults, and 38 assaults with bodily fluids. The bill ensures that all transit workers are covered, including those employed by private contractors, such as employees who operate the commuter rail. The bill also explicitly defines assaults with bodily fluids, such as saliva as punishable offenses.

Offenders will face a sentence ranging from a minimum of 90 days to two and a half years in a house of correction, a fine between $500 and $5,000 or both.

"Public transportation employees do important work every day to keep our trains and buses moving on time and ensure the safety of all passengers," said Gov. Maura Healey. "They should never be subject to any form of assault simply for doing their jobs. This bill ensures that they have the protections they deserve and will enhance safety for all users of our public transportation system."

After passing in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, Healey signed this legislation into law on Dec. 3, 2025.

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The Winchester Select Board on Feb. 23 approved an overnight parking pilot, raised building permit fees for the first time since 2021, adopted the 2026 outdoor dining policy and directed the town manager to examine reinvesting downtown-generated revenue into town center improvements. The board voted unanimously to implement the overnight

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‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

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Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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